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**(54) A Retractable Rule Assembly, and a Blade Locking Structure**

(57) The invention provides a retractable rule assembly, comprising a housing assembly; a reel rotatably mounted in said housing assembly; an elongated blade formed of a ribbon of metal being wound on the reel, said elongated blade having measuring indicia formed on a concave side thereof; a coil spring formed of a ribbon of metal constructed to rotate said reel in said housing as-

sembly in a direction to wind up the elongated blade; and a blade holding assembly for holding the blade in a position of extension outwardly of said housing, said blade holding assembly comprising a resilient thumb engaging portion and a receiving region behind the thumb engaging portion to enable the thumb engaging portion to deform into the receiving region to absorb impact.

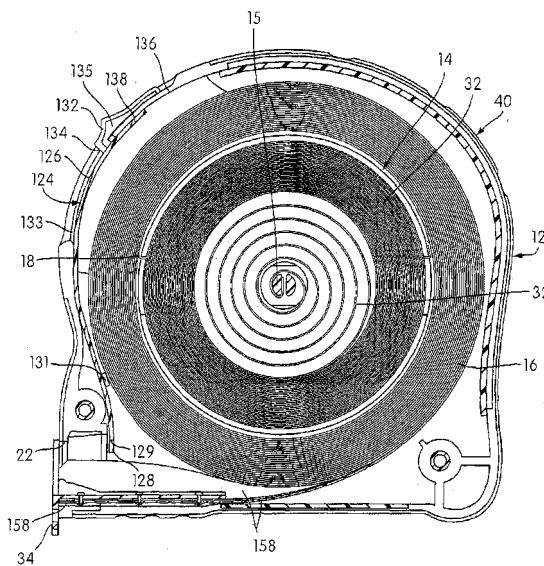


FIG. 4



## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 07 11 7570

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
4	Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
	Munich	23 February 2012	Beyfuß, Martin
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ..... & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
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